

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, of the application with the following:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Utility Application No. 10/612,753, filed July 1, 2003, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Switching Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop Devices", which in turn claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/393,164, filed July 2, 2002, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Switching in a Fibre Channel Network" and U.S. Provisional Application 60/395,107, filed July 10, 2002, entitled "System and Method for Multiple Trunk Connections Between Fibre Channel Switches", all of which are incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.